involve petty offences and in which the undertrials have been in jails for a long time. Based on the above direction of the Supreme Courts, the Central Government *vide* their letter dated 17.12.1999 requested all the State Governments/UT Administration to take urgent necessary steps to mitigate the hardships face by the undertrials.

The Chief Justice of India *vide* letter dated 29th November, 1999 suggested to all the Chief Justices of the High Courts that every Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or the Chief Judicial Magistrate of the area may hold his Court once or twice in a month, depending upon the workload, in jail to take up the cases of those undertrial prisoners who are involved in petty offences and are keen to confess their guilt. As per the information received from various High Courts, excepting the High Courts of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat and Patna, 22,586 cases of the undertrial prisoners involved in petty offences have been disposed of till the 30th June 2001.

Fast Track Courts are also being setup to dispose of long pending sessions cases particularly those involving undertrials who have been in jails for long time.

Supereme Court ruling on Fast Track Courts

2016. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether, after the recent Supreme Court ruling reinforcing the Constitutional and legal sanctity of Fast Track Courts, Government are working vigorously to ensure that all 1743 Fast Track Courts become functional;

(b) if so, whether the FTCs adopted by the 11th Finance Commission with the idea of ridding huge pendency of cases, got a legal sanction by a recent Supreme Court ruling dated the 6th May, 2002;

(c) if so, whether any programme of action has been considered by Government to make Fast Track Courts functional soon; and

(d) if so, by when these Courts will be functional?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Hon'ble Supreme Court

in its Judgement dated 6th May, 2002 in the case of Brij Mohan Lal *Vs.* Union of India & others have upheld the Constitutional and legal validity of fast track courts scheme and have laid down guidelines for their efficient functioning & the monitoring of their performance.

(c) Yes, Madam. The programme of action is laid down in the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission and the guidelines prescribed by the Supreme Court. It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to establish Fast Track Courts as envisaged under the Scheme. The Central Government is also constantly persuading the State Governments and the High Courts to make all the Fast Track Courts functional as soon as possible.

The Supreme Court in its Judgement dated 6th may, 2002 has directed as follows:—

"At least one Administrative Judge shall be nominated in each High Court to monitor the disposal of cases by Fast Track Courts and to resolve the difficulties and shortcomings, if any, with the administrative support and cooperation of the concerned State Government. State Government shall ensure requisite cooperation to the Administrative Judge."

(d) The Supreme Court in its Judgement dated 6th May, 2002 has directed as follows:— "The High Court and the State Government shall ensure that there exists no vacancy so far as the Fast Track Courts are concerned, and necessary steps in that regard shall be taken within three months from today. In other words, steps should be taken to set up all the Fast Track Courts within the stipulated time.

The direction given by the Supreme Court has been communicated to the State Governments and High Courts for their compliance.

Proposal to set-up Singapore Style e-court

2017. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proposal has been formulated to establish the Singapore style e-court set-up at the apex court level where all proceedings can be conducted electronically;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the specialised training facilities launched and infrastructure created/proposed to be created in the various States;